

*The Iowa Numismatic Association
Established in 1938*

The Iowa Collector

Official Publication of the
Iowa Numismatic Association



In this collector's edition, we feature a 1907 Indian Head Cent
and a rectangular metal piece with two circular holes.



1907 Indian Head Cent
1907 Indian Head Cent

In this collector's edition, we feature a 1907 Indian Head Cent
and a rectangular metal piece with two circular holes.

In This Issue

**Altering One of America's Favorite Coins –
the 1877 Indian Head Cent**



**Winter & Spring 2017
Volume 58 Number 2**

<http://ina.anacclubs.org>



**IOWA
NUMISMATIC
ASSOCIATION'S
79th Annual
COIN SHOW & CONVENTION**

October 21st - 22nd, 2017

Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Isle Casino Hotel Bettendorf
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Coin show hosted by Quad City Coin Club

**For Information:
Chris Seuntjens
(515) 251-4031**

The Iowa Collector

Official Publication Iowa Numismatic Association

Volume 58, Number 2

May 2017

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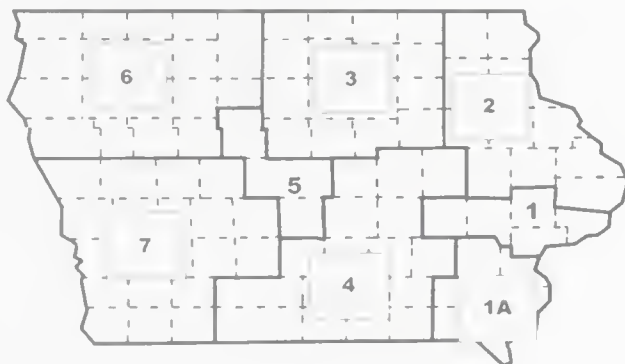
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1877 Indian
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Regional Districts



The Iowa Numismatic Association Officers



President
Dean Parr

.....2761 Bever Ave, S. E., Cedar Rapids, IA 52403
(319) 366-0552 drparr@mehsi.com



First Vice President
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.....219 26th St., Ames, IA 50010
(515) 233-4637 dwstark@aol.com



Second Vice President
Brian Sparks

.....1714 Paragon Avenue, Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(515) 570-6147



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Beverly Ashton

.....615 Central Ave., Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(515) 573-3033



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.....115 Grandy Ave., Sioux City, IA 51106
(712) 274-9195 jjcoin1@ahotmail.com

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1. Ron Lashmit.....537 East 4th Street, Tipton, IA 52772
(563) 886-2399 renjll@yahoo.com
- 1A. Clarence Mitchell.... 313 Cottage Grove, West Burlington, IA 52655
(319) 752-6052 linda.mitchell@mehsi.com
2. Dale Winter.....1870 Asbury Rd., Dubuque, IA
52001 (563) 582-6776
3. Don Wells.....367 2nd Street S. W., Britt, IA 50423
(641) 843-4510 dwells86@mehsi.com
4. Denny Ross.....7079 189th St., Albia, IA 52531-8771
(641) 932-2731 den72ny@gmail.com
5. Sam Ashton 615 Central Ave., Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(515) 573-3033
6. Don McCulloch.....900 28th Street, Spirit Lake, IA 51360
(712) 330-3673
7. Tom Hynn P.O. Box 381 Glenwood, IA 51534
(603) 411-4671

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Gary Stasko(515) 232-1552 or Cell (515) 450-0678
Ames, IA 50010
Robert Simon.....Urbandale, IA

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Chris Seuntjens 3427 Merle Hay Rd., Des Moines, IA 50310
(515) 251-4031 chris@christophersjewelry.com

HISTORIAN

Brian Sparks1714 Paragon Avenue, Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(515) 570-6149 bsparks1@hotmail.com

LEGAL ADVISOR

Open

EDITOR: THE IOWA COLLECTOR

Denny Ross 7079 189th St., Albia, IA 52531-8771
(641) 932-2731 den72ny@gmail.com

From the Editor

Would you like to see news of your club's activities covered in *The Iowa Collector*? The editor welcomes news of club happenings in the *Iowa Numismatic Associations* region. Send any information on your upcoming coin show, election of new officers and other club news and articles, prepared by club members, to the Editor. Include any photographs with your article, to make your story more interesting.

Send to: Editor, *The Iowa Collector*
7079 189th Street
Albia, IA 52531-8771

Presidents Message

Dean Parr



Fellow numismatists

As I write this we are well into the spring run of Iowa coin shows. I have attended several shows and plan to make it to several more before summer starts. Be sure to say hello if you see me. I took my own advice from my last message and gave my oldest grandson a Lincoln Cent Whitman Album. Wow, was I surprised at his enthusiasm. I gave him a couple rolls of wheat cents to start with. I figured that would get him started and he could look through change for the newer coins. I talked to him a couple weeks later and he was so excited to tell me that had found a couple of his birth year. I had told him that since he was born in 2009 he had four different designs to find. His father had given him a 20th century type set folder and a couple of Washington Quarter pages. He really wanted to start collecting quarters. His birthday is coming up so I picked a state quarter album for him. I also have a Jefferson Nickel album ready to go. I found an 1817 large cent at the Muscatine show that I will give him as well. That should give him something to do this summer.

Numismatics is all about learning. When I go to a coin show I am always looking for something interesting that makes me want to know more about it. Several years ago I bought a Mexican Revolutionary banknote from Brian Fanton. It wasn't uncirculated, but it had a red over stamp on the back that made me want to know more. The over stamp reads:

This is a Genuine "Villa" Dollar
Send 50 cents for a complete set of
1, 5, 10, and 20 Peso Notes of Mexico
Revolutionist Currency

F. W. Harr, Nora Springs, Iowa
"Largest Numismatist Dealer in the West"

Now I really wanted to know who Mr. Harr was. I searched the internet and found nothing at the time. However, in January I was giving a presentation on Mexican money to the Cedar Rapids Club and ran across the note again. So I did another search. An article popped up from the June 1916 "Northwest Druggist" titled "Pharmacist-Numismatist". I posted a photo of the banknote and the article on the INA Facebook page. Or you can just Google F. W. Harr 1916 and it is the first item listed. That made my day! In closing, I look forward to seeing many of you at various shows and meetings in the coming months.

INA President Dean Parr

From The Secretary's Desk

Beverly Ashton



Hello from Fort Dodge. What a strange winter we had this year in Iowa. There were a few storms that dumped a bit of snow on us in the Midwest. Depending on what part of the state you live in, the snow amounts really varied. We are in the midst of spring and summer is around the corner. I don't understand where the time goes.

This year we will be selecting Outstanding Numismatist. Please think this over and send in some nominations. The member clubs should discuss this and send in your choices. This really originated as an idea to shine a light on some fellow numismatist for the contribution they are making in our hobby. If you don't send us any nominations, the Board has to come up with some names on our own. We really don't want to do this on our own. If you had nominated someone in the past and they did not win, you are sure welcome to nominate them again.

What are the markets doing? Right now gold spot is around \$1,250, with silver about \$18.20.

See you at the shows.....

Beverly Ashton
INA Secretary/Treasurer

INA Board and Membership Meeting Dates

The INA officers hold three board meetings each year and one open membership meeting. These meetings are held in conjunction with a coin show. The annual board meeting is held during the INA's Annual Coin Show & Convention which is hosted by a different Coin Club each year. The INA's officers board meeting is held the evening of the first day of the INA coin show and the open membership meeting is conducted on the morning of the second day of the INA coin show.

Regular INA Board meetings:

February 25, 2017 at Coin-a-Rama, Nevada, Iowa

May 20, 2017 at Central Iowa Coin & Stamp Expo, Altoona, Iowa

October 21, 2017 at Annual INA Show, Bettendorf, Iowa

October 22, 2017 Open membership meeting, Bettendorf, Iowa

President Dean Parr called the meeting to order. The minutes were read. Chris Seuntjens motioned they be accepted, John Jackson seconded and they were approved. The Treasurer's report was given with a balance of \$6,819.92 in the general fund. Denny Ross motioned the report be accepted, Dave Stark seconded and it was approved.

Bev told about her problems with her computer and the printer. It was decided that Chris would take the computer to his IT guy and have him check it out. A new printer was discussed, then that was left up in the air until the computer was figured out.

Dean awarded a Past President plaque to John Jackson.

Chris brought up Mitch Ernst nomination to ANA and a sign-up sheet was passed around. Chris then gave us a reminder for ANA member clubs to send in nominations also.

Chris then gave a report on how the show in 2017 is coming along. The room is huge, 9,000 square feet. Everything seems to be progressing smoothly.

Bev needs to be getting to work on the 501c designation. ICITA dues need to be paid.

It is time for Outstanding Numismatist nominations. Nominations need to be sent to Bev. Chris suggested an award for Scott Nichols.

Denny needs to add the Face Book address to The Collector.

Chris motioned we adjourn, John seconded and we adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Ashton

Secretary/Treasurer

Members present: Denny Ross, John Jackson, Sam Ashton, Chris Seuntjens, Bev Ashton, Dean Parr, Brian Sparks, Tom Flynn, Dave Stark & Gary Stasko

From The Editors Desk

Denny Ross



Here it is the first of May and Spring is half over already. There have been several coin shows since the first of the year. It seems the collector market is still pretty soft. Bullion metals have experienced a slight resurgence in the past couple of months. Its still anybodies guess what the metals market is going to do in the near future.

As for collector coins and currency, there are still a lot of really good bargains to be had in the market place, especially in key and semi-key pieces.

Just a reminder to be sure and send in your nominations for the Outstanding Numismatist Award. See page 20 of this issue of The Iowa Collector for Award Criteria and nominate the individual you feel meets the Qualifications for the Outstanding Numismatist Award.

Are you aware that The Iowa Numismatic Association has a Face-Book page? Brian Sparks is the Manager of the Face-Book page and keeps it up to date with periodic news in the numismatic hobby. If there is something that is numismatic related that you would like to see on the Face-Book page just contact Brian so he can post it. The Face-Book page address is listed at the bottom of page I of this issue of The Iowa Collector.

Look forward to seeing many of you at the up-coming coin shows.

Denny Ross

Editor: The Iowa Collector



Starting Balance	INA Regular	IC I A Fund
	88,404.59	0.00
Receipts		
Dues	172.00	
Medals	166.00	
Ads	10.00	
Interest	1.59	
	<u>349.59</u>	
Expenses		
INA portion ads	500.00	
Mailing Collectors	6.10	
Ins - INA show	25.00	
Deposit Isle Casino	500.00	
Returned Collectors	11.00	
Presidents Plaque	59.49	
Ottumwa Printing	<u>832.07</u>	
	1,934.26	0.00
Current Balances	6,819.92	0.00
Checking	4,433.96	0.00
Savings	2,345.96	
Cash	<u>40.00</u>	
	6,819.92	

INA Bylaws

The Bylaws can be viewed on the INA website <http://inaanaclubs.org>.
 A white copy, of the bylaws, can be obtained by contacting INA
 Secretary Beverly Ashton, 615 Central Avenue, Fort Dodge, IA 50501

SEMINAR SPEAKERS

Tom Robertson (319) 351-2512 tdrobby@yahoo.com
Programs on - Seated Liberty series; 1/2 dime, dimes, quarters half
dollars & seated dollars..

Brian Fanton (319) 294-4377
Programs on - Grading, Boy and Girl Scout merit badge programs
Slabbing, The 'Art of coin collecting' and general numismatic
topics.

Carl L. Thurman, Ph.D. (319) 273-2276 thurman@uni.edu
Program on "American Nickels 1866 to 2017"

Dean Parr (319) 366-0552 drparr@mchsi.com
Programs on - Foreign coins & World paper money.

Lee Roe (563) 852-3517 hilltopcoin@netins.net
Programs on - Buying and selling coin collections. Slabbing.

Steve Feller..... (319) 393-7052 sfeller@coe.edu
Programs on - POW Scrip, WW II Concentration Camp money, Civil
War money, The New Orleans mint, Ancient coins, and other topics.

SHOW COORDINATOR

John Jackson (712) 274-9195 jjcoin1@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Chris Seuntjens..... (515) 251-4031 chris@christophersjewelry.com

WEBMASTER

Dean Parr (319) 366-0552 drparr@mchsi.com

When and where Coin Clubs Meet

Ames ----- Last Wednesday, Senior Citizens Center, 7:00 PM, Scott Nichols
a (515) 232-9222

Burlington ----- Fourth Tuesday, No meeting in Dec., Burlington Public
Library, 210 Court St., 5:30 PM, Clarence Mitchell a (319) 752-6052

Cedar Rapids ----- Third Wednesday, 7:30 PM, Rockwell Main Plant
Cafeteria, 35th St. N. E., Bob Johnson a (319) 573-6652

Clarion - Fourth Thursday, Pizza Ranch on Main St., 7:00 PM, Boyd LaRue
a (515) 460-5681 or Bill Soesbe a (515) 532-2155

Decorah ----- First Tuesday, V. F. W. Building basement, 104 State St. 7:30
PM, Dave Sanderson a (563) 568-2371

Dubuque ----- First Thursday, A&W-OKY DOKY, 1st & Locust St.
Upstairs at 7:00 PM, Neil Archison a (563) 590-9623

Des Moines -- First Tuesday, St. Marks Episcopal Church, 3120 1st 24th, 7:00
PM, Larry Carlberg a (515) 251-4031

Fort Dodge ----- Second Thursday, ICC C East Campus, 7:00 PM, Sam
Ashton a (515) 573-3033

Glenwood Coin Club - Second Thursday, Glenwood Coin Shop, 13 North
Vine Street, Suite 2, 7:00 PM, Tom Flynn (712) 527-4321

Grinnell ----- Second Monday, Community Center (Senior Citizens Room)
7:30 PM, George Fowler a (641) 236-3549

Hiawatha ----- Fourth Wednesday (except June & July), Hiawatha Library
150 W. Willman St. (or the shop) 7:00 PM, Brian Fanton a (319) 294-4377

Keokuk ----- Third Thursday every month, Keokuk Public Library, 210
North 5th Street 7:00 PM, Tom Gardner a (515) 292-9047

Old Capitol (Iowa City) ----- Second Tuesday, Veteran's Administration
Hospital (Third floor cafeteria), Hwy 6, 7:00 PM Tom Robertson a
(319) 351-2512

Oskaloosa --- Second Thursday each month, 103 High Avenue 7:30 PM
Clarence McKee a (641) 672-2763

Ottumwa - Fourth Tuesday, Albia Road Baptist Church, 1601 Albia Road (Basement), 7:00 PM, Kermit Uhde (641) 682-0525

Port City (Muscatine) - Fourth Tuesday (Dec meeting 3rd Tue), Musco Lighting, 2107 Stewart Rd., Muscatine 7 PM, Jim Burr (563) 262-9313

Quad City (Moline, IL) - Third Thursday, Calvary Lutheran Church, Avenue of the Cities and 29th St, 7:00 PM, Jeff Struve (309) 737-0206

Siouxland (Sioux City) - First Tuesday, First United Methodist Church, 1915 Nebraska Street, 7:00 PM, John Jackson @ (712) 274-9195

Storm Lake - Second Tuesday, Chamber of Commerce Bldg., 119 West 6th Street, 7:00 PM, Russ Post @ (712) 284-2110

Wadena - Third Thursday, Historical Center, West Union, IA, 7:30 PM Dr. James E. Ralls @ (319) 283-4440

Waterloo/Cedar Falls - Second Tuesday, Waterloo Arts & Rec. Center, First & Commercial Streets, 7:00 PM, Dennis Bracken @ (319) 231-8385

Dear I.N.A. Member

The 2017 year is here. We encourage you to support the I.N.A. with your ad in The Collector. The rates are.

Full Page	\$100.00	Half Page	\$60.00
	Quarter Page	\$30.00	

Ad rates for private shows will be prorated from the normal yearly advertising rates.

Full page ads for INA Coin Clubs are \$10.00. Non INA Coin Clubs are \$25.00.

There are 3 issues of our deluxe publication, with a 4th issue when needed. Anyone would be proud to have their ad in "The Collector". We try to get articles and information for the good of our members. We encourage everyone to write an article concerning numismatic information which might help other collectors, especially our new members.

Thank you for your sponsorship!

Chris Seuntjens
3427 Merle Hay Rd.,
Des Moines, IA 50310

The Iowa Collector is published 3 times a year
Publication dates:
January, May, & September

2017 Coin Show Calendar

May 20-21 Des Moines Coin Club Annual Coin Show - Adventureland Inn
Altoona, IA (9-5) Chris Seuntjens (515) 251-4051

May 21 Monthly Collectors Coin Show - Hilton Garden Inn 2702 Mid America
Dr., Council Bluffs, IA (9-3) Ed Bishop (407) 720-3355

June 18 Monthly Collectors Coin Show - Hilton Garden Inn 2702 Mid America
Dr., Council Bluffs, IA (9-3) Ed Bishop (407) 720-3355

July 16 Monthly Collectors Coin Show - Hilton Garden Inn 2702 Mid
America Dr., Council Bluffs, IA (9-3) Ed Bishop (407) 720-3355

Aug 20 Monthly Collectors Coin Show - Hilton Garden Inn 2702 Mid America
Dr., Council Bluffs, IA (9-3) Ed Bishop (407) 720-3355

Aug 26-27 Iowa Great Lakes Coin Show - Spirit Lake Community Center, north of
Great Lakes Mall (9-5), (9-3) Don McCulloch (712) 336-4618

Sept 17 Monthly Collectors Coin Show - Hilton Garden Inn 2702 Mid America
Dr., Council Bluffs, IA (9-3) Ed Bishop (407) 720-3355

Sept 23 Heartland Coin & Stamp Show - Bridge View Center, 102 Church Street,
Ottumwa, IA (9-4) Denny Ross (641) 932-2731

Oct 15 Monthly Collectors Coin Show - Hilton Garden Inn 2702 Mid America
Dr., Council Bluffs, IA (9-3) Ed Bishop (407) 720-3355

Oct 15 Tri-State-Coin Show - Diamond Joe's Casino, 302 Bell Street,
Dubuque, IA (9-4) Richard Hilard (563) 557-7210

Oct 20-21 IAA Coin Show and Convention - Isle of Capri Casino and Hotel 3777 I-80
Pkwy, Bettendorf, IA (9-5) - (10-3) Chris Seuntjens (515) 988-3225

Nov 19 Monthly Collectors Coin Show - Hilton Garden Inn 2702 Mid America
Dr., Council Bluffs, IA (9-3) Ed Bishop (407) 720-3355

Dec 17 Monthly Collectors Coin Show - Hilton Garden Inn 2702 Mid America
Dr., Council Bluffs, IA (9-3) Ed Bishop (407) 720-3355

Dec 10 Old Capitol Coin Club Show - Clarion Hotel 180 & Hwy 1 Des Moines
City, IA (9-4) Alice Grimm (319) 331-8576

Join the Iowa Numismatic Association

Membership

Any person interested in numismatics, over 18 years of age, of good moral character may become a member upon recommendation of the membership committee. Dues are \$10.00 per year.

Object

The object of this corporation shall be to;

Encourage and promote the science of numismatics.

Cultivate fraternal relationships among coin collectors and students.

Foster the interest of youth in the subject.

Encourage and assist new collectors.

Stimulate and advance affiliations between our associations and kindred organizations in the United States and foreign countries.

Acquire and disseminate numismatic knowledge.

Generally represent numismatic interests throughout the State of Iowa.

Junior members

Any person between the ages of 0 and 18 years old and sponsored by a senior member may be considered for junior membership. Junior members may not hold office, but may vote for elective offices. Dues to be \$2.00 per year.

Officers

Officers are elected every two years by membership vote, by mail ballot, and take office at the annual convention following election. Officers consist of 16 members, including the President, the First and Second Vice Presidents, the Secretary/Treasurer, the immediate Past-President, and 11 Directors.

The annual membership meeting is held each year at the Iowa Numismatic Association's Annual Convention held in the fall.

The Iowa Collector, the official bulletin, is published three times each year and sent to each member. The I.N.A., upon request, will help the heirs of any member in good standing find a qualified person or persons, in his area, to appraise an estate.

For further information about the I.N.A. contact any member, director or officer. An application has been enclosed with this issue of The Iowa Collector. To join fill it in and send it along with your check to:

Beverly Ashton
615 Central Avenue
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(515) 573-3033

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE IOWA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

I hereby make application for membership in the "IOWA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION", subject to the provisions of its Articles of Incorporation and By-laws.

Send this application together with \$10.00 for the current years dues.
Young applicants dues are \$2.00 per year until the age eighteen.

Note: The I N A year runs from January 1st to January 1st.

Date _____

Applicants Name (please print) _____

Mailing address _____

E-mail address _____ Phone # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Date and Year of Birth _____

Signature of Applicant _____

Signature of Proposer _____ I N A or A N A Number _____

For use of Secretary/Treasurer _____

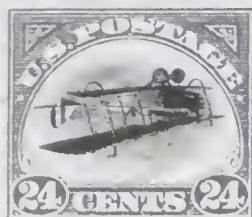
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In what year did the U.S. Mint experiment with several different alloys, including glass, to mint cents?

A. 1942

C. 1944

B. 1943

D. 1945

How many experimental glass U.S. cents are known of today?

A. 9

C. 1

B. 6

D. 2

Answers to above inside back page

The purpose of the INA is to bring together those persons interested in the hobby of collecting coins. To encourage active participation in Numismatics. To encourage the principles of fair dealing. To study the history of the world through the art of coin, currency and exnumia. To provide a forum for Iowa numismatists to share their interests and knowledge with prospective new collectors.



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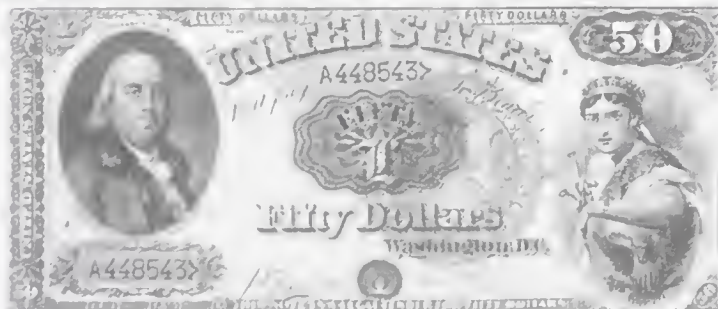
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Open Tues. thru Fri. 10 to 5
Other days by appointment



Iowa Numismatic Associations Outstanding Numismatist Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding effort in the support of the field of numismatics.

Award Criteria:

The award will be given biannually beginning in 2007 and continuing each odd numbered year.

Nominations will be accepted prior to June 1st of each odd numbered year.

Nominations should be received in writing, by the INA Secretary prior to midnight on the above deadline. The nomination should include the candidates name and a brief summary of their qualifications.

Qualifications:

Nominees must be a living INA member in good standing with the organization for at least three years.

Recipients are eligible to receive the award only once every ten years.

Nominees will be evaluated on the following:

1. Service to the INA and/or an INA endorsed club.
2. Promotion and/or propagation of the field of numismatics.
3. General Character and Reputation of Integrity and Honesty.

The nominees will be reviewed by the INA Board who will narrow the nominees to three finalists (candidates). A general election will be held by the INA to determine the final recipient from the three finalists. Only INA members in good standing will be allowed to vote in the general election. (Board members who are nominated must abstain from participation in the review and consolidation of candidates. They do retain the ability to cast their ballots in the general election once the three finalists have been chosen).

**The award will be a plaque presented by the President of the
INA at the next general meeting.**

Coin Facts

United States Quarter Dollars

The first United States Quarter Dollars were struck in 1796, despite having been authorized in 1792. Demand for the denomination was low - in 1796, only 6,146 Quarter Dollars were struck, then no more were struck until 1804, when the mintage was again tiny. The Draped Bust design was used from 1796 to 1807, with a change in the reverse design beginning in 1804. No Quarter Dollars were struck from 1808-1814. Minting of the denomination resumed in 1815, with the introduction of the Capped Bust design. In 1831, the diameter of the Quarter Dollars was reduced and standardized through the use of a close collar (a collar that restricted the outward flow of metal when the blank planchets were struck).

The Seated Liberty design debuted in mid-1838 and lasted until 1891. From 1853 to 1855, arrowheads were placed on either side of the date to signify a reduction in the weight of the coin. In 1866, the motto "IN GOD WE TRUST" was added to the reverse of the Quarter Dollar. From 1873 to 1874, arrowheads reappeared on the obverse, this time to signify the adoption of the metric system by Mint officials.

In 1892, Charles Barber created a new design using a head of Liberty wearing a freedman's cap. This became known as the Barber type, one of the few American types that took the name of the designer, rather than the name of the main design elements (other notable examples are the Gobrecht and Morgan Silver Dollars).

The Standing Liberty design appeared in 1916, featuring a classic figure in a long, flowing dress, carrying a shield in one hand and an olive branch in the other. In 1916 and 1917, Liberty appeared bare-breasted; from 1917 to 1930, she was given cover-up of chain mail.

A special Quarter Dollar appeared in 1932, commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Washington. The Washington type became so popular that it replaced the Standing Liberty design, even though the latter design had not been in place for the statutory 25 year minimum. In 1965, a "sandwich" alloy of copper-nickel layers around a pure copper core replaced the old 90% silver alloy. In 1976, a special "Drummer Boy" reverse was created for the bicentennial of American independence. In 1999, the Mint began an ambitious, ten year program intended to produce a unique design for each of the 50 States, with five new designs appearing each year. The 50 States Quarters program is credited with creating millions of new coin collectors.



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Glass Coin Shatters... Expectations

Jaime Hernandez

Earlier this year the only known fully intact 1942 Glass Cent sold at auction. The coin was assigned a grade of PCGS PR64 Red Brown, and it realized \$70,500 at a Heritage auction, shattering price expectations. The coin that just sold at auction is said to have surfaced from a private collection. There is one other 1942 Glass Cent known; however, that example is broken in half, making the current example a treasure when it comes to U.S. coinage. And the price realized might someday end up being a real bargain, as not too many collectors can ever say they own an authentic glass coin.

The coins were struck in a pivotal time in American history – World War II was taking place – and producing coins was more than likely not on the top of the Government's list of priorities. Despite the ongoing war, the Mint still decided to experiment with other metals to replace the mostly copper 1-cent coin, as it was in dire need of copper for ammunition for the ongoing war. As a result, the Mint struck several coins in 1942 that were composed of different alloys.

The Mint also invited different entities to experiment with other metals to try and find an alternative metal to replace the mostly copper cents. One of the companies that accepted the invitation was none other than the Blue Ridge Glass Company from Kingsport, Tennessee. The company produced at least two examples of the Experimental 1942 Glass Cent. There is no reliable data indicating how many examples were actually produced, and for now, the coins are currently considered exceedingly rare. The only intact 1942 Experimental Glass Cent is accentuated by a yellow amber appearance and remnants of the reverse design can be seen through the obverse, and vice versa, since it is made of glass. The coin also has irregular glass flow patterns, including some microscopic-looking cracks, also a result of its glass construction. The edge of the coins was manually smoothed; therefore, these coins can have different weights. The coins were believed to be struck with coin dies at room temperature, while the glass planchets were heated, creating a fairly weak detailed design compared to other metal coins struck by the U.S. Mint. Weakness is especially seen on the letter "E" of Liberty and the "J" in Justice. The obverse of the 1942 Experimental Glass Cent has a similar bust obverse to that of the Columbian 2 Centavos. On the other hand, the reverse has a wreath and the words "United States Mint" towards the center of the design.

and it is very similar to the Washington Medalet (Baker 1955) coin design. Other experimental alloys exist for 1942 Cents, including plastic, rubber, aluminum, brass, zinc, Bakelite and other compositions. In the end, the U.S. Mint decided to use zinc-coated steel cents for the 1943 Lincoln Cent. Between the three mints, Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco, over 1 billion examples were struck. This makes the coins very common, unless they are varieties, errors or are in very high grades of MS68 or higher. Otherwise, almost anyone can afford a 1943 steel cent.

It's always fascinating when a very special coin takes you back in time and reminds you of some of the most significant moments in history. And the Experimental Glass 1942 Cent is definitely one of these coins. Below are images of some of the different metal alloys that the Mint used in 1942 while experimenting with different coin compositions.



Glass 1942



Experimental Plastic 1942



Aluminum 1942



Zinc 1942

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Altering One of America's Favorite Coins – the 1877 Indian Head Cent

Mike Sargent

With the proliferation of counterfeit coins we are now experiencing, especially from China, PCGS has been at the forefront of countering the threat counterfeiting brings to collectors and the coin industry.

PCGS graders have always been taught how to detect counterfeit coins, and Mike Sargent is one of the leading experts in this challenging facet of coin authentication. In this article, Mike takes a close look at one of America's favorite collector coins – the elusive 1877 Indian Head cent – which unfortunately, is one of the most likely coins to be faked. Mike will pinpoint the difference between the genuine article and altered versions.

It always helps to know the characteristics of a genuine coin whenever you start talking about counterfeits. With the 1877 Indian Head cent, the most important diagnostic feature appears on the reverse. On a genuine coin, the bottom right of the N in ONE and the top left of the N in CENT should be much weaker than the rest of the denomination. The only set of dies used on mint state coins issued for general circulation in 1877 has this distinct characteristic. Proof 1877 Indian Head cents were struck from dies with strong lettering in these same areas.

Some specialists believe that as many as 10% of all mint state 1877 Indian Head cents were struck from this set of proof dies after the mint was finished producing proofs. I do not subscribe to this theory. I believe that the few specimens I have seen to date are more likely proof coins that entered into circulation.

PCGS has certified more than 2,000 1877 Indian Head cents and I have personally inspected more than half of them. Out of all those coins, I have seen no more than a dozen pieces that were genuine with strong Ns. Compare this quantity to other proof-only series such as Trade dollars from 1879-1883 and the percentage of impaired proofs is similar to the percentage of circulated, strong N 1877 Indian cents.

All other dates from the 1870s have strong letters across the entire denomination and thus are a giveaway when a counterfeiter tries to alter a different date to an 1877. The date that seems to be altered most frequently is 1879, where the last 9 is changed to resemble a 7. Some altered 1879s have both 7s altered in a hopeful attempt to make them match.

However, close examination of the date area on these altered coins reveals tooling defects caused by displaced metal.

On the counterfeit coin presented here, note that the bottom of the serif on the second 7 is not squared off like the first. Both 7s on the genuine coin have squared-off serifs. There is also a slight discrepancy with the back, sloping side of the two 7s. This altered coin actually is much better than most counterfeit 1877 cents, because of how difficult it is to accurately duplicate genuine numbers this closely.



On this counterfeit example, smoothing of fields is evident after recutting 7s in date.



On counterfeit example, the fake N's are too strong.

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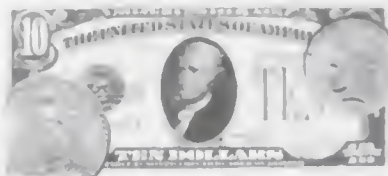
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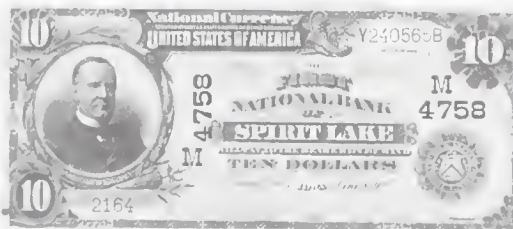
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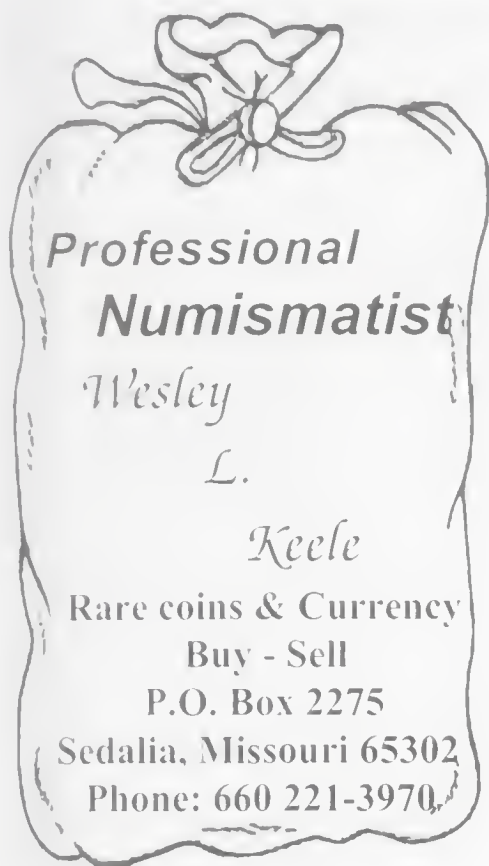
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